

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08314 311140Z
ACTION EA-06

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P R 311010Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T TEHRAN 08314

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CH, YO, RO, IR
SUBJ: VISIT OF HUA KUO-FENG TO IRAN

1. WHEN I WAS PRESENTED TO PRC CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG AT
DIPLMATIC RECEPTION AUGUST 30, HE ASKED ME TO INFORM
PRESIDENT CARTER THAT HE HAD READ AND APPRECIATED THE
PRESIDENT'S "POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE" COMMENTS ABOUT
HUA'S CURRENT TRIP. HE SAID HE HAD ENJOYED HIS MEETING
AND DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI AND LOOKED FORWARD
TO MEETINGS WITH DR. SCHLESINGER.

2. HUA WENT ON TO RECITE FAMILIARY FORMULA THAT HE
EXPECTED US-PRC RELATIONS TO DEVELOP STEP-BY-STEP IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE SHANGHAI
COMMUNIQUE. WITH RESPECT TO THIS AREA OF THE WORLD,
HE SAID CHINA ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE COUNTRIES

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IN THIS REGION AND HE EXPECTED HIS TALKS WITH THE SHAH
TO PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS.

3. IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
HUANG HUA (WHOM I HAVE KNOWN SINCE 1961) I ASKED HOW
HE VIEWED THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT TO EASTERN EUROPE.
HIS FIRST, ALMOST AUTOMATIC, REPLY WAS "FRUITFUL."

HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SOVIETS ARE "FURIOUS" BECAUSE THE VISIT DEMONSTRATES THAT THEY NO LONGER CONTROL AND DOMINATE THEIR CLIENT STATES IN EASTERN EUROPE. HE SAID, "WE KNOW FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCE, THAT ONCE STATES LIKE THOSE IN EASTERN EUROPE HAVE HAD CLOSE EXPERIENCE WITH THE SOVIETS, THEY CAN NEVER HAVE FRIENDSHIP FOR THE SOVIETS AGAIN."

4. HUANG HUA ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE PRC ATTACHES TO IRAN AND TO THE SHAH PERSONALLY. THE PRC AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS STANDING WITH US, JOINED IN TO TELL ME "THE SHAH IS COUNTING ON YOUR HELP."

5. DRAWING ON PAST ENCOUNTERS, HUANG HUA AND I ENGAGED IN A LITTLE MUTUAL JOSHING ABOUT VIET-NAM. INTERESTINGLY, HE DECLINED TO CONDEMN THE LAO DONG LEADERSHIP PER SE, BUT TOOK THE LINE THAT THE CURRENT PRC-VIET TROUBLES "REPRESENT THE MACHINATIONS OF OUR GREAT NORTHERN NEIGHBOR." WHEN I SAID THAT MY EXPOSURE TO THE LAO DONG SUGGESTED THEY DIDN'T NEED MUCH STIMULATION AND CITED STATEMENT PHAM VAN DONG HAD ONCE MADE TO ME THAT THE VIETS WERE "THE PRUSSIANS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA," HUANG HUA MERELY SMILED AND STUCK WITH HIS LINE ABOUT SOVIET PROVOCATION.

6. IN ANOTHER DISCUSSION AT THE SAME RECEPTION WITH
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VICE FONMIN YU CHAN, HE ASKED ME HOW MANY "EXPERTS" WE HAD IN IRAN. WHEN I SAID 1,300 MILITARY, HE ASKED HOW MANY WERE WORKING IN THE PETROLEUM FIELD. I TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT PETROLEUM "EXPERTS" WERE HIRED PRIVATELY AND WERE NOT USG EMPLOYEES. IN REPLY TO HIS FURTHER QUESTION ABOUT HOW MANY THERE WERE, I GUESSED AT ABOUT 2,000. HE THEN SAID CHINA WOULD BE SEEKING THE HELP OF U.S. EXPERTS WITH ITS OFFSHORE PETROLEUM AND HE HOPED WE WOULD SEND THEM OUR BEST. I SUGGESTED HE OFFER TO PAY THEIR SALARIES IN YEN, BUT I THINK THE REMARK WAS LOST ON HIM.

7. COMMENT: I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE SURE-HANDED WAY IN WHICH HUA KUO-FENG HANDLED HIS BRIEF MEETINGS WITH EACH DIPLOMAT. HE HAD A COGENT, SUCCINCT COMMENT AVAILABLE FOR EACH INTERLOCUTOR WITHOUT PROMPTING. HIS PRESENCE IS COMMANDING AND HE SEEMS POISED AND SELF-CONFIDENT. IN TYPICAL CHINESE FASHION, HIS REMARKS WERE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY A YOUNG INTERPRETER WHO SHOUTED THEM OUT LOUD ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE IN EARSHOT TO HEAR. THE SOVIETS AND THEIR SATELLITES WERE REPRESENTED BY CHARGES WHO CLUNG

AGAINST THE WALLS AND DID NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE
IN THE FESTIVITIES EXCEPT TO BE ENDOWED WITH A BRIEF
HANDSHAKE FROM THE GREAT MAN.
SULLIVAN

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